

REVIEWS

Studies in the Theory of Human Society. By FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS.

New York: The Macmillan Co., 1922. Pp. vii+308. \$3.00.

Some of Professor Giddings' keenest thinking is to be found in this collection of essays (for it has not the unity of a treatise), classified as Historical, Analytical and Synthetic. All of his work has shown his deep interest in classification and the present volume adds to this predilection a growing emphasis upon methodology. The last essays especially attempt to point the way to a productive method in sociology, and this is fundamentally the statistical. Induction from data has always been a part of the Giddings creed, but in his earlier days he was sufficiently under the influence of Spencer and the other anthropological interpretationists to draw most heavily upon the materials gleaned from early societies and primitive peoples. And many of the essays here collected are concerned with method and perspective in the interpretation of anthropogeographic and early economic processes or stages. But, just as the bulk of the present volume is given over to a discussion of analyses and methods of analysis of contemporary institutions and social processes, so is it clear that the author's thinking has kept pace with the gradual relegation of the anthropological method to a secondary position in sociology. The essay on pluralistic behavior is his most ambitious attempt to sketch method and content for a future sociology.

Professor Giddings' mind is one of the keenest in the field of sociological analysis and synthesis, but he apparently recognizes that sociology has yet to be written, just as the principles of physics had not been organized into a synthetic and fairly consistent whole before the nineteenth century, although much work has been done earlier under that title. To those who are laying the foundations of the future science of sociology, method and classification seem to be of transcendent importance, and this volume makes first rate contributions to the philosophy of both these subjects. In this respect the author is in line with the best quantitative tendencies.

It is possible to find in this volume some interesting echoes of the past. Especially is this true of his individualism, which is not wholly unlike the traditions of the early nineteenth century, which do not now

usually survive except in connection with doctrinaire radicalism (see pp. 142, 188, 201, 284). Yet Professor Giddings is no radical. He speaks of the shallowness of Marxian theory (p. 276) and is inclined to think that manual labor is not always productive enough to be self-sufficient (p. 237), and he might be interpreted as holding that modern slavery (if there is to be such) will be due more to inequalities of intelligence rather than to accidents of power (pp. 236, 243-45). Many radicals might be impatient with his theory that continuous progress prevents the abolition of poverty (pp. 235, 243-45), or at least that this is, comparatively speaking, a very significant cause. He may, on the whole, be classified as an environmentalist (p. 147), in spite of the fact that he makes considerable use of instinct. Apparently he has less use for the economic interpretation than formerly. He places considerable stress upon the rôle of great men (pp. 219-20). Many will wonder why sociology may deal with folkways, taboos, social selection, organization and morale, but must leave to the economist matters of housing, cost of living, family budgets, wages, hours and conditions of labor, insurance and pensions (p. 299). Perhaps it is because of the anthropological tradition which survives in Professor Giddings, or it may be that he still classifies the social sciences on the basis of subject-matter rather than of problems to be solved. He says of William Graham Sumner that "We are beginning to recognize [him] as perhaps the most consistently sociological if not the greatest of sociologists" (p. 293). And this may be for the same reason. He also says, "The survey has its place and its value, but it can never give us the laws of social change" (p. 300). This volume represents a valuable fusion of the evolutionary and cross-section methods in sociology.

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Public Opinion. By WALTER LIPPMANN. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1922. Pp. iii+427. \$2.25.

In his little volume *Liberty and the News*, published in 1920, Walter Lippmann ventured to defend the thesis that political liberty, under modern conditions, is no longer guaranteed by the mere freedom of speech, i.e., the freedom to express opinion and criticize the government, but by the completeness, the accuracy, the fidelity with which the newspapers report the news. Of that volume the present volume is a sequel.